



HOT-LINE REPORT

FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT ISSUE OF QCWA NEWS, WE HAVE THE PLEASURE OF ANNOUNCING THE CHARTERING OF A NEW QCWA CHAPTER. CHARTER NUMBER 149 WAS ISSUED TO THE NUTMEG CHAPTER OF QCWA. ACTIVITIES ARE IN THE CONNECTICUT REGION. OFFICERS PRO-TEM OF THE CHAPTER ARE:

Milton E. Chaffee, WLEFW, President
Joseph A. Moskey, WJMY, Secretary

The Chapter plans four meetings annually. It is hoped that QCWA Treasurer, W4COW, will be able to make the formal Charter presentation in May.

QCWA AS A WHOLE IS ASKING MEMBERSHIP TO CONSIDER THE PRO'S AND CON'S IN THE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING IN DOCKET 84-265. THIS DEALS WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF AUTHORIZING FOLUNTEER EXAMINER COORDINATORS AND?OR VOLUNTEER EXAMINERS BEING REIMBURSED FOR OUT OF POCKET EXPENSES INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ADMINISTERING OF AMATEUR EXAMINATIONS. PRINTED HEREIN, FROM THE W5YI REPORT, IS A STORY ON THE MATTER. IN GENERAL, THE FEELING IS THAT REASONABLE EXPENSES SHOULD BE REIMBURSED. THE MEANS FOR DOING THIS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION. READ THE REPORT AND THEN FILE YOUR COMMENTS TIMELY, I.E., ON OR BEFORE APRIL 16, 1984. BE CERTAIN TO IDENTIFY YOUR QCWA MEMBERSHIP WHEN MAKING YOUR COMMENTS.

QCWA NEWS FOR THE SUMMER OF 1984 IS JUST ABOUT PREPARED FOR THE PRINTER. BALLOTS FOR THE QCWA 1984 ELECTION OF FIVE DIRECTORS ARE UNDER PREPARATION AND WILL BE MAILED NO LATER THAN MAY 15, 1984.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING IN DALLAS AT THE END OF THIS WEEK, WILL BE CONSIDERING A GREAT NUMBER OF IMPORTANT MATTERS AND WILL BE WORKING A FULL SCHEDULE. A FULL REPORT ON THEIR ACTIVITIES WILL APPEAR IN THE SUMMER QCWA NEWS.

HEADQUARTERS IS UNDERTAKING THE JOB OF COLLECTING AND PROPERLY BINDING A FULL SET OF QST. WE'RE STARTING FROM NOTHING, SO ANY HELP, OLD QST'S AND BINDERS WILL BE NEEDED. THE MATERIAL WILL BE KEPT AS A RESEARCH LIBRARY, AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS AND WITHI XEROX COPIES OF ARTICLES AVAILABLE AT A NOMINAL FEE, WHEN THE PROJECT IS

IS COMPLETE. GIFTS ARE TAX EXEMPT AND THE MATERIAL WILL BE KEPT
AS QCWA ARCHIVE MATERIAL FOR ALL TIME. YOUR HELP WILL BE NEEDED.

W5YI REPORT

Fred Maia, W5YI, Editor, P.O. Box 10101, Dallas, TX 75207

NPRM Issued on Ham Exam Expense Rebate

The FCC has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) seeking to implement one of the paragraphs of Public Law 98-124. This legislation was approved last December 8th and was titled the FCC Authorization Act of 1983. Its main purpose was to fund the FCC.

The "tag-along" paragraph in question authorizes Volunteer Examiners (VEs) or Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) to be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with volunteer administered ham tests above the Novice class. Senator Goldwater (K7UGA), the sponsor of the legislation, stated, "...the legislation I am introducing today is not intended to have any effect upon the present novice program...." The following is the exact wording of the bill that applies to amateur radio:

"With respect to the acceptance of voluntary uncompensated services for the preparation, processing or administration of examinations for amateur station operator licenses... individuals, or organizations which provide or coordinate such authorized volunteer services may recover from examinees reimbursement for out-of-pocket costs. The total amount of allowable cost reimbursement per examinee shall not exceed \$4.00, adjusted annually every January 1 for changes in the Department of Labor Consumer Price Index. Such individuals and organizations shall maintain records of out-of-pocket expenditures and shall certify annually to the Commission that all costs for which reimbursement was obtained were necessarily and prudently incurred."

The ARRL (national ham group) immediately filed a Request for Agency Action asking that the Commission allow the refund of amateur testing costs as soon as possible. The FCC said, however, "...since this

matter affects a large number of people (amateur licensees and applicants), we are providing for notice and comment."

The NPRM proposed rules which would allow both the volunteer examiner (VE) and volunteer examiner coordinator (VEC) to be reimbursed. Each amateur radio examination (above the Novice Class) is to be administered by three VEs. "They may be reimbursed for the expenses they incur in administering the examination... Likewise, the VEC may be reimbursed for its preparation and processing of the examination. The total reimbursement from each examinee... may not exceed \$4 for an examination. It could be less than that amount, depending upon the circumstances."

The Commission did not suggest how the reimbursement fee is to be divided among the VEs and VECs. Reimbursable expenses included VEC's "printing, assembling and distributing the exams", postage, "administrative costs" (record keeping), and rental of an examination site.

"A VE, on the other hand, may have costs for transportation to the site of an exam and perhaps lodging expenses." Other VE expenses, the FCC said, could include "paper, pencils and supplies that are supplied to the applicants," and postage. "We cannot anticipate every expense that a VEC or VE may incur."

The Commission agreed that "in most cases the VE could most conveniently collect the reimbursement fee since the VE and the examinee directly interact. ...in certain cases, a VEC may devise a program where the reimbursement is collected by it and then shared with the VE's to defray their out-of-pocket expenses. Varying conditions and practical necessities may affect who collects the money initially."

Following are some additional highlights from the March 9th Notice of Proposed Rulemaking:

(1.) The reimbursement amount "which may be less than the statutory \$4 but may not exceed that amount, will be a reimbursement amount associated with one application." In other words if you take multiple telegraphy and written examinations for more than one license class you still only pay the fee once.

(2.) "If an examinee fails an examination and later submits a new application, a new reimbursement amount may be collected."

(3.) The FCC will announce the new maximum amount of reimbursement every January 1st which "would be stated annually in a public notice."

(4.) Both the VE and VEC must maintain records of out-of-pocket expenditures. "We will cancel the agreement that we have with a VEC if the VEC recovered more than out-of-pocket costs."

(5.) "No volunteer examiner shall give or certify any examination by fraudulent means or for monetary or other consideration. Violation of this provision may result in the revocation of the amateur radio station license and the suspension of the amateur

radio operator license of the volunteer examiner." Recovery of any amount in excess of that permitted can also result in the these sanctions, the FCC noted.

(6.) VECs must "agree not to accept any compensation from any source for its services... except reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses (to a maximum of \$4.00.)"

In closing, the FCC said, "We believe that reimbursement for expenditures will make the (volunteer examining) program more attractive to volunteers and more effective. We will continue to administer some examinations in our field offices and at a few remote points in 1984 until such time as the volunteer program is in place. However, our resources for this work are very limited."

"We wish to implement the volunteer examination program as soon as possible for the good of the amateur community. Therefore the comment period will be 30 days, with reply comments due 15 days thereafter. Requests to extend the time for filing comments or reply comments are discouraged and will not be routinely granted."

Interested persons may file comments on or before April 16, 1984 and reply comments on or before May 1, 1984. (NPRM, Docket 84-265, released 3/9/84.)

.....
QCWA MEMBERS ARE SHOWING INTEREST IN THE PROPOSAL, FIRST VOICED IN THE SPRING ISSUE OF QCWA NEWS, PAGE 3, WHEREIN VIC CLARK, W4KFC, HAD, IN ONE OF HIS LAST LETTERS, SUGGESTED THAT QCWA MIGHT TAKE THE LEAD IN TRYING TO INSTILL PRIDE IN AMATEUR COMMUNICATIONS AND TO WORK TO ELIMINATE UNGENTLEMANLY LANGUAGE, MALICIOUS INTERFERENCE, AND OTHER ILLS THAT PLAGUE AMATEUR AIR-WAVES. KEEP YOUR LETTERS AND COMMENTS COMING. IF THERE IS SUFFICIENT INTEREST, THE BOARD MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO MAKE IT AN OFFICIAL FUNCTION OF QCWA. IF YOU BELIEVE IN THE NEED AND THAT WE CAN DO IT, LET THE BOARD KNOW!

HEADQUARTERS IS WORKING ON A PLAN TO ATTEMPT TO CATALOG AMATEURS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES (AND THE WORK) WHO ARE HEARING IMPAIRED. WE ARE NOT YET READY TO LAUNCH A PROGRAM, BUT WILL BE WILLING TO ACCEPT NAMES, CALLS, ADDRESSES AND COMMENTS ON THE MATTER. KEEP THE MATTER IN MIND, MORE WILL BE APPEARING SOON IN QCWA NEWS.

The latest member to be enrolled in QCWA is:

Everett L. Jones, KØJQG, 1000 Reservoir Street, in Hannibal, Missouri, 63401. Everett was introduced to QCWA by Frank L. Breshears. Frank was a Railroad Fireman, then working in Broadcasting before retiring. His birthday is April 19! Welcome to QCWA, Frank! OH, his number? 17763, dated April 2, 1984.

THE QCWA HOTLINE REPORT IS AVAILABLE BY SUBSCRIPTION ONLY, \$6 PER YEAR...IF INTERESTED, WRITE TO HQ FOR DETAILS TO GET YOUR NAME ON THE MAILING LIST.



QCWA, Inc.

1409 Cooper Drive
IRVING, TX 75061



FIRST CLASS MAIL



HOTLINE REPORT